

## THE SEASON OF SPORTS.

### RACQUET IN THE CITY.

GROWTH OF THE GAME—HOME AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW-YORK CLUB.

The New-York Racquet Court Club is one of the most thriving clubs in this city and yet it comes before the public so seldom and in such an unobtrusive way that its character, if not its name, is unfamiliar to the general public. This may be due partly to the fact that the club-house is in the unfashionable thoroughfare of Sixth-avenue at the northeast corner of Twenty-sixth-st.; and partly also to the fact that the members are devoted to games and physical culture and do not make a specialty of getting up club strife and disputes to attract public attention.

The game of racquet, from which the club takes its name and over which it exercises a fostering care, has an interesting history in this city which dates back to the earliest days of racquet players who are now veterans. The game is an English one, a blood relation of lawn tennis, and is played almost as widely as flags the British flag. As scientific games of racquet are played in China as in England. The game was a favorite with the Court of Charles II. The first racquet court in this city was in Albany, where the master being Professor Dowdy, a noted player there were all first-rate men and great things are expected of them. They and Messrs. Pease and Miller will represent the club in all the regattas as an eight-oared crew.

The Friendship Boat Club formally opened its gates on April 20. The entire session of the Senate on Tuesday at noon, will close the legislative action of the year. The long session of sixteen weeks has been remarkable in many ways, and the legislators who declared it the most important of the decade were not far wrong. There has been a vast amount of excitement for staid New-Jersey, and some of the enactments were hotly discussed in the press of the State. The subject that bothered the sober heads in both houses most constantly was that of our oration taxes. There was a great popular demand for the regulation of the railroad corporations' relations with the State, but the laws of fifty-five years were so peculiar and involved that those who knew anything about them were staggered at the task of changing the systems in vogue. No other State in the Union, it is said, has dabbled in charter legislation so much as New-Jersey. Some of the privileges of companies now in existence were granted two hundred years ago, and after the Revolution, Alexander Hamilton, Eliza Bondini and a score of other worthies secured rights and titles which must be considered in almost every public improvement planned in Northern New-Jersey. The Legislature in dealing with the corporations have been forced into all sorts of queer compromises and entanglements, often making the fact condition worse than the first so far as future legislation was concerned. There was this year a popular demand that had to be obeyed, and the attempt to comply was begun on the first day of the session by the appointment of a joint committee with Senator Briggs as chairman. The problem was to get from the corporations sufficient revenue (\$1,200,000) to support the state and enough more to relieve Jersey City and one or two other municipalities that were suffering from the system of tax exemptions in vogue. The House of Assembly was under Democratic management and not much could be expected from it, but Mr. Cola, Republican, of Hudson, and some others of the same opinion obtained a remarkable influence, and the House at length manifested its approval of the popular sentiment. It was decided to know edge, and had a man's instinct, rushing him and thicker in his legislation as it happened to be stirred by this or that wisp of wind. One of the first things to be done will be given in the solving of real difficulties of the case, but it was susceptible of being moulded.

**THE RIDERS OF THE WHEEL.**

### EFFECTS OF THE RIVERSIDE PARK EDICT—THE REI IN WASHINGTON.

Since the recent action of the Park Commissioners excluding tramps from the Riverside Park was taken, they no longer see those strange-looking arrangements of cranks on carts and shadowy wheels propelled by grave and poor men or healthy young women in some sort of gear. Bicycles fly past with a bounding motion, like the occasional clang of the warning bell.

While there are not so many as formerly, because the great number of boats belonging to the Harlem and Kips Bay Yacht Clubs are now the only ones left in the harbor to try their speed. Among the boats of the Marion Club that were out were the Coquette, Jacinta, Silver King, Honor, Little Devil, Sante A., Sette B. and Dasy. The Kips Bay boats were the Sunbeam, Little Batty, Gull Blas and Jim Jones.

From 1867 to 1876 there was no court in the city. In the latter year the Racquet Court Club was organized by a number of gentlemen, including W. R. Tracy, A. Wright Sautord, Edward La Montagne, D. Lydig and others, and the club, which had a racquet court and a billiard room, was the first to open. This was erected on the site of the Metropolitan Hotel. The New-York Yacht Club, which originally had a boat house, had a racquet court in the eleventh-st. Professor Dowdy, who is now a member here, and many good games were played. E. La Montagne was one of the earliest and most skilful players of racquet and has won the championship more than once. Among the professionals of those days were Pitman and Mitchell, William Gray, Joseph Gray and Foulkes, all Englishmen, came over in 1868, and played some remarkable games with Dowdy and others.

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